

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make an editorial change to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Figure 6A is amended to correct a typographic error.

Claims 1-8 and 16 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3 are canceled and new claims 17-19 are added. Therefore, claims 2, 4-8 and 16-19 are presented for consideration.

Claims 1, 2 and 16 are rejected as unpatentable over TSUDA et al. 5,936,688 in view of MOON 6,543,901 and claims 3-8 are rejected as unpatentable over TSUDA et al. in view of MOON and further in view of NAKAI 6,219,119.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested because the references do not disclose or suggest plural interconnected protrusions having depressed areas between adjoining ones of the plural protrusions, each of the depressed areas having a closed geometric shape as recited in new claim 17 of the present application.

By way of example, Figures 7 and 8 of the present application show plural interconnected protrusions 18 having depressed areas 52 between adjoining ones of the plural protrusions 18. Each of the depressed areas 52 has a closed

geometric shape. As best seen in Figure 7, one of the disclosed geometric shapes is a triangle.

As disclosed on page 23, lines 13-19 of the present application, the protrusions 18 are formed by a coating process such that an organic resin layer is formed and then patterned by known optical exposure and development methods. The organic resin layer that is formed has plural protrusions. The protrusions are interconnected as seen in Figure 7 of the present application such that the only space between protrusions is the enclosed depression 52. Accordingly, the depressed area is enclosed by the protrusions such that the protrusions form a depressed area having a specific closed geometric shape.

TSUDA et al. in conjunction with Figures 1B and 1C teach at column 6, lines 44-55 that the photomask 13 used in step of Figure 1B forms cylindrical protrusions 12b. The photomask 13 is designed so that adjacent protrusions 12b are spaced apart from one another whereby any protrusion 12b is not in contact with adjacent protrusions 12b. Such teaching of TSUDA et al. is opposite that which is shown in Figure 7 of the present application and recited in new claim 17.

MOON is only cited for the teaching of a reflector having a protrusion pattern with an inclination value from 2° to 10°. MOON does not teach or suggest plural interconnected protrusions having depressed areas between adjoining ones of the

plural protrusions, each of the depressed areas having a closed geometric shape as recited in claim 17 of the present application.

NAKAI at column 6, lines 56-58, for example, teach a reflecting surface 5 having hills 3 and valleys 4 thereon. Valleys 4 of NAKAI do not have a closed geometric shape. The Official Action has indicated geometric shapes in Figure 3 of NAKAI. However, these geometric shapes are related to light-condensing region 1. The light-condensing regions 1 are additional protrusions formed on the hills 3. Valleys 4 are unaffected by the protrusions 1. As seen in Figure 1b of NAKAI, the depressed areas (valleys) between adjoining ones of the plural protrusions of NAKAI do not have a closed geometric shape.

The above-noted feature is missing from the references, is absent from the combination, and thus is not obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 2, 4-8, 16 and 18 depend from claim 17 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the proposed combination of references.

New claim 19 provides a layer of organic resin having a plurality of spaced apart depressed areas lacking the organic resin, each of the depressed areas having a closed geometric shape. The closest reference to NAKAI teaches a resin having hills and valleys. There is no area of NAKAI that is lacking the

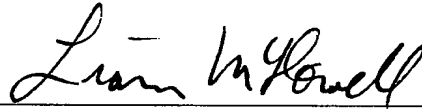
resin. Accordingly, claim 19 is also believed patentable over the cited art.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

LM/lrs

APPENDIX:

- replacement sheet for Figure 6A